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# MACLEAN'S

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SEPT.  
7th  
2009

INSIDE STORY

## THE MILLIONAIRE MURDERER

The fast times and terrible end  
of a Calgary developer  
turned reality TV star

P.34

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Billions of dollars are wasted by generating energy that never reaches a single light bulb. A smarter planet needs smarter energy systems.



Up to 10 percent more power is wasted in Canada every year. A smarter planet needs smarter home systems.



The average electricity meter only tells you one-third of its systems status. A smarter planet needs smarter infrastructure.



Today, electricity is being produced by billions of people and flows from a billion different sources. A smarter planet needs smarter insights.



Today, the components, processes and participants that comprise our traditional systems aren't integrated. A smarter planet needs smarter healthcare systems.



Millions live in homes of children in need and believe because they don't have the right products, nothing. A smarter planet needs smarter retail systems.

## Let's build a smarter planet.

As we move toward a globally integrated economy and society, we find ourselves at a moment of enormous challenge – and of even greater opportunity.

Today, almost anything can be instrumented, interconnected and infused with intelligence.

The question is: what will we do with that? Earlier this year, IBM launched an ongoing conversation exploring what it means to make the systems by which our world works work better. The list is long, and the dialogue has just begun.

We believe that smarter systems can and will make a meaningful difference to the prosperity of the global economy, the sustainability of our planet and the health of global society. We also believe that IBM is uniquely positioned to help – thanks to our depth of resources, expertise and experience. We can help provide enterprises, institutions and governments of all sizes around the world with the tools and thinking necessary to build a planet of smarter systems.

The future now beckoning to us is one of enormous promise – a future we can build on if we open our minds and let ourselves think about what our world could be.

Let's build a smarter planet. Join us and learn more at [ibm.com/think/za](http://ibm.com/think/za).



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SINCE 1964, when a electronic timing began, no one has broken the 100-m record by more than 0.7 seconds. Usain Bolt nearly did it.

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WE SHOULD ASKED for research dollars based on a school's merit, not its reputation

## The need to compete

Should Canada's university system become elitist? The country's five largest universities think so.

Laurier's Maclean's readers got a first look at a controversial proposal from the presidents of the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, the University of Toronto, McGill University and Université de Montréal in an exclusive round table discussion with senior columnist Paul Wells. They outlined a plan that would see their schools receive favoured government funding to promote their world-class research and graduate student education. The remaining 100 odd schools in Canada would become primarily undergraduate institutions, with increasingly reduced budgets and expenditures.

Wells over these past seven hours over this idea has spilled across newspapers and onto online discussion forums. The idea of pricing universities within Canada's post-secondary school system strikes many as unfair.

Yet reinforcing Canada's post-secondary academic research effort for maximum effect does have merit. And many smaller universities would benefit from being their focus to undergraduate degrees rather than trying to be everything for all students. The question is how we go about it.

Since they already enjoy the lion's share of existing research grants, fellowships and the like, the presidents of the Big Five universities argue in favour of even more specialisation and rationalization. To the extent their plan seeks to hoard research in locations with a proven track record, it seems sensible and logical. But the arbitrary decision to topknot these five schools above all others is not.

Many of Canada's smaller universities excel in particular areas because of exceptional faculty, personnel or simply wise leadership. The University of Waterloo isn't part of the Big Five, but its leadership in computer science and math is recognized around the world. Plus, its president has spawned a robust technology economy in Waterloo Region. Why would we want to create a caste system to exclude such happy circumstances in the future?

Rather than allowing the Big Five presidents to decide on their own who ought to belong to their club, it's better to award funding on a competitive and open basis. Let all schools, big or small, prove themselves. Consider the federal government's new Canada Excellence Research Chair. This \$28 million a year program will provide top-tier university research grants in areas of science and technology. It is precisely the sort of major funding the Big Five presidents are talking about.

A few months ago Desjardins announced 40 finalists for the 20 available CERC grants. As might be expected, the Big Five Equine prominently. U of A and U of T received the nominations each. But Montreal received none. And Waterloo had four, as many as UBC or McGill. All told, 13 smaller schools set for recognition under the plan garnered 32 CERC nominations—four more than the Big Five combined.

Excellence can be found in both large and small schools. The merit is to explore it efficiently and effectively. And the way to do that is through self-competition for available funds, not a system that rewards separation above all else. ■

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This week on the Web

**END OF SUMMER SALE**

We've afield through the real estate listings to see how far your dollar can stretch. Find out what kind of house you can buy these days in Canada, no matter what your budget.

[macleans.ca/realestate](http://macleans.ca/realestate)

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**A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ABDEL BASET AL-MEGRAHI**  
 The Libyan intelligence agent, convicted of the December 1988 bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, who is near death from cancer, was greeted by a jubilant crowd at the airport, including Mouammar Gadhafi's son Saif. But international protests have nudged governments in Edinburgh and London. And a planned Libyan visit by Prince Andrew has been scrapped.

### Good news

#### Catching a break

After a summer of illness, the cancer-stricken headmaster of a B.C. arts studio has, early diagnosis that he had a brain tumor, and now, after a year of treatment, he is feeling better. The headmaster, who is now 65, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2004. He had a craniotomy and radiation therapy. He is now feeling better and is able to work again.

Leading rice and sugar beet growers have identified a new disease called 'rice yellow' that appears to be resistant to MS-100. The disease, which is caused by a virus, is spreading rapidly in the rice fields. The growers are concerned that the disease will cause significant losses. They are working with researchers to find a way to control the disease.

### Bad news

#### Vietnamistan?

U.S. military commanders have said President Obama that the 30,000 American troops currently in the ground in Afghanistan are "Vietnamistan." The term is a play on the word "Vietnam." The commanders are concerned that the war in Afghanistan will become a quagmire, like the war in Vietnam. They are calling for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country.

to teach boys, or even to teach girls. For months, there have been reports of Islamic-style military patrols roaming the territory, forcing women to cover up, especially at Giza's beaches. Authorities have also apparently been inspecting cars parked in quiet spots, in a bid to prevent summer couples from stealing some alone time. Maybe the police would be more interested in the cars than the people. The police are also checking the cars for drugs and other illegal items.

### FACE OF THE WEEK



**FACE OF THE WEEK** Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté tries for his life on the international space station in September.

#### Coming clean

The release of another "insane" U.S. Justice Department report on the September 11 attacks, followed by the CIA's admission that the CIA had been involved in the attacks, has led to a new wave of criticism of the U.S. government. The critics are accusing the government of covering up the truth about the attacks. They are calling for a full investigation into the attacks.

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### Duffer's revenge

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez found a new target. In one of his regular TV broadcasts last month, Chavez called against the "bourgeois sports" of the Olympics, and suggested the host could be better used for the poor. Since then, government officials have taken him at his word, moving to shut down two of the country's best hotels. The hotels are the only ones that are still open. The government is trying to force the hotels to close. The hotels are protesting the government's actions.

### General floaters

Berger says Google is trying to win and turn, try GM's side of its European Open division. The recently bankrupted auto-maker around the German government, which work that it does intend to get rid of the company, probably in the near future. But the delay was bad news for Canada, which is a major market for GM. The delay is also bad news for GM, which is trying to raise money to stay afloat. The delay is also bad news for the European Open division, which is struggling to stay afloat.

### BLOGS

**SCOTT FESCHON**  
 On vacation in Florida's Vero Beach, where he is looking to meet up with Obama. I'm taking my vacation in Florida's Vero Beach, where he is looking to meet up with Obama. I'm taking my vacation in Florida's Vero Beach, where he is looking to meet up with Obama. I'm taking my vacation in Florida's Vero Beach, where he is looking to meet up with Obama.

**PHILIPPE GONIER**  
 If I were to follow a list of all the celebrities I could see to describe Canadian politics and political parties, I would probably include the names of the celebrities. I would probably include the names of the celebrities. I would probably include the names of the celebrities. I would probably include the names of the celebrities.

**CLINTON AT THE EX**  
 Covering Bill Clinton's speech at the Canadian National Exhibition. Clinton is giving a speech at the Canadian National Exhibition. Clinton is giving a speech at the Canadian National Exhibition. Clinton is giving a speech at the Canadian National Exhibition.

### WEB POLL RESULTS

What should be the dominant issue in the next federal election campaign?



THIS WEEK'S POLL: [macleans.ca/enl](http://macleans.ca/enl)

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

The Summer Blockbusters Quiz - from Henry Porter's 'The River' to Star Trek to Disney. [macleans.ca/BlockbustersQuiz](http://macleans.ca/BlockbustersQuiz)

## ROGERS

Magazine and TV host Rogers is a leading voice in the media. Rogers is a leading voice in the media. Rogers is a leading voice in the media. Rogers is a leading voice in the media. Rogers is a leading voice in the media.

### Closer to the cure

Researchers in the U.K. are making a major breakthrough in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. The researchers have found a way to treat the disease. The researchers have found a way to treat the disease. The researchers have found a way to treat the disease.

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# MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON WHO WORE JEANS UNDER HIS TUXEDO AND WHAT THE TOUR GUIDES HEAR

## THE RING BEARER HAD ISSUES

Liberal MP Mark Holland married Cindy Fournier on Oct. 10 last weekend. At the ceremony, most of Holland's fellow Liberal MPs, including **Norwegian Bums**, sat in the back benches of the church. Bums said it was in case the children got rowdy. **Gerard Kennedy's** young son, **John John Kennedy**, clearly did not want to wear a suit. There was much grumbling, and during the ceremony he kept unbuttoning his dress shirt and removing his clip on tie. (Though during the exchange of vows, John John suddenly hid his shirt and put his tie back on.)



CINDY FOURNIER, Mark Holland (top) with (left to right) Ring bearer Billy Holland/Norwegian Bums and daughter (middle left), Maria Silva (middle right), Gerard and John John Kennedy (bottom left), Mark Palmer (bottom right), Orest, right) Vivian Ralston.

most buildings that come up, any Palms, are "What does this church is this?" and "Who lives in the Peace Tower?" (There is no *Quebec*.) Once, in July, a group came on the tour with ice skates, they asked where the *Rafael* Canal was. During a re-enactment scene by Capital City (not one of Palmer's), a guide pointed out to a group "the famous staircase," explaining, "This is where the Prime Minister always comes down." Unfortunately, Stephen Harper almost never comes down this way, preferring to enter the Commons from the back.

## AN MP'S ACADEMIC CAREER

Toronto Liberal MP Mario Silva graduated from Oxford University through an executive program, receiving his master's in international law. Silva's thesis was called "Extraordinary rendition and the consequences of a state's failure to protect its citizens." Silva now doing a Ph.D. through the National University of Ireland at Galway, where he is managing failed states.

## WHERE FORMER MP'S FIND WORK

What happens to MPs after they leave Parliament? It appears they take leadership positions on their parties. Peggy Nash, who was defeated by Gerard Kennedy, was named president of the NDP at their recent Halifax convention. Vivian Ralston, who was defeated by Justin Trudeau, became re-elected to the Bloc Québécois this year. Northern Harbour MP Nash has confirmed if they will run at the next election.

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa stories or to contact Mitchel Raphael, visit [mitchelraphael.com](http://mitchelraphael.com)

# A smooth way to face Monday mornings

Put your best face forward without pulling, tugging or irritating your skin – and start the new week with irresistibly smooth skin.

Monday morning – it's something we all have to face after an action-packed weekend. For two full days you ditched your suit, your laptop and your usual shaving routine. But now the games have ended: the concert is a wrap, the party is over – and like the rest of the guys, all you've got left of the weekend is a grossly face staring back at you in the mirror. So how can you get back your clean-shaven look and reduce the risk of irritating your skin in the process?

"One of the best parts about the weekend? Not having to shave! But that leaves difficult stubble to contend with on Monday. For that, you need a shaver designed to challenge and defeat Monday morning stubble."

— BRUNN

So what's the trouble with serious stubble? Your current electric shaver may not be able to deal with it, tugging at the long hairs and making the short ones. And all that hair pulling, tugging and discomfort can leave you with irritated skin – just adding to your Monday morning misery. Tough beards make for tough shaving. With the right shaver, you can target about the special challenges your weekend stubble presents and start the week confidently with a clean, smooth shave.

So how do you go from scruffy to smooth without sacrificing comfort?

## The smooth solution

- To keep your skin smooth and help reduce irritation, look for a shaver with multiple cutting elements designed to remove hairs as easily as the short ones.
- For a close and comfortable shave in hard to reach areas like the neck, try a shaver with independently flexing elements that can easily adapt to your face and capture hairs growing in different directions.
- Keep your shaver clean. Fuzzy trim with a cleaning system like Braun's Clean & Refresh™, you'll be the only one using it every day. It automatically cleans lubricates, dries and charges the shaver at the touch of one button.



The NEW Braun® Series 3 shavers take care of long and short beards with precision, style and comfort. Get Monday mornings off to a smooth start!

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## Richard Williams, Venus and Serena's famous father, on creating champions, his critics, parenting, and the problem with tennis

A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN INTINI

*Richard Williams has been planning his daughters' domination of the tennis world since about two years before Venus, now 29, was born. He taught himself the sport and later moved his young family from Saginaw, Mich., to Compton, a poor violent suburb of Los Angeles, in the hopes that it would give his kids a competitive edge. Their combined 18 Grand Slam singles titles and nearly US\$10 million in career earnings (not to mention tens of millions in endorsements) is proof his unconventional paid off. Last week, the world's most famous father was at the Rogers Cup in Toronto, where Venus was upset in the second round and Serena was knocked in the semifinals by the tournament's eventual winner, Elena Dementieva. Before his daughter Serena's loss, the 67-year-old former tennis coach turned writer (Williams says he's written 35 books and hopes to publish his first, *How I Did It* with Venus and Serena, by next January) sat down with John Intini.*

**Q** When you decided all those years ago to train, had you considered any other sports?

**A:** No, because I didn't know at that time of any thing in sports that a woman could do and win that type of income. I didn't know anything about tennis. I hadn't even watched a tennis match. I just saw [tennis commissioner] Bud Collins say to [Rennett Steinmetz, tennis player] Virginia Raman, "You can't win but for four days' work," I thought, that has to

be a job. But the next day when I read it in the sports page, I said, "I'm going to have one twelfth and put them in tennis." To this day, I don't know anything a child could do to make that kind of money in one week.

**Q:** Take me back to the first time you took them out on a court when they was four. How did you know the way going to be a star?

**A:** A champion has four qualities, and it's not something you can coach. You have to be tough, you have to be tough, you have to be strong and you have to just be mentally sound. What's interesting is that Venus didn't hit many balls over the net. I mean, I have pitched about 510 balls to her. She would never, never, never do that to a child who is four years and six months old. That's crazy. You'd have to be insane to do that. To a child her age, you shouldn't hit more than 75 balls, or 100 at the most. But every time I tried to stop, she would just say, "Just one more, one more, one more." I was working with three other girls who were much older than Venus and the three couldn't hit 500 balls without taking breaks. So to use Venus to do it by herself that age, you just knew she was going to be a champion. My neighbors accused me of being crazy because, before Venus was born, I was walking around telling about how she was going to be a champion.

**Q:** What made you so confident?

**A:** I'm a mister planner. I would go around to the Racquet Country Club, some of the members there have ballrooms and the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, all these wonderful clubs. You see parents with the best cars, the best

lace neighborhoods, and chauffeurs and limousines dropping the kids off. But those kids don't have responsibility. Those kids are not tough. They're not tough. Plus, I'd done research on athletes from the ghetto. A ghetto racket you want to be the best just to get out of the ghetto ghetto.

**Q:** So should all parents who dream of their kids going pro move to Compton?

**A:** [Laughs] I don't know if I recommend it. It's not a long shot to stay alone. I didn't have a father. My mother was the only provider we had. We were living on \$10 a month. She learn to make a little and make it a lot. So I felt that going to Compton, they would learn the same thing. The problem with living in the ghetto was that on the street we lived as it seemed everyone did drugs. And there was [a dead body] in the middle of the street almost every day.

**Q:** How did you keep the girls far enough away from that?

**A:** A child [needs to understand] real life. Perma protect their kids so when they grow up and leave home, that child thinks everything is nice, that child thinks everyone is truthful, that child thinks everything is great. So life is not that way. I'd take them to the police department where they could see people in jail. I wanted them to see people on drugs. I wanted them to see how athletes make some of the worst decisions and lose their money at an early age. If you can't see it from the beginning then you can learn it. **Q:** Can a kid be pushed too hard?

movies  
couch potato  
at the club till dawn  
a rockstar, being my own boss, cinema  
first row at the concert  
playing with the band  
my friends, spending time with friends  
my friends, dating, late night  
ries  
my friends, spending time with friends  
made dinners, dating, late night  
ice hockey with the  
game marathon, fast  
nds for din  
ring the phone,  
riends, watchin'  
raoke, soccer  
for clothes

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW TOLSON

As if your child is going to be super good and the child has no defense, your child can be great. But when you push the child too much, you don't give the child confidence. The reason I took Venus and Serena out of tennis (in 1990), Williams pulled back his daughter from the junior circuit in Southern California and moved the family to Florida, is because I saw kids from the next neighborhood, like Beverly Hills, with broken wrists I've seen kids get pulled and damaged. You see kids that are told they're nothing. That's part of the exercise.

When Venus turned 14, I didn't want her to play anymore. It is really worth it to have the fame, the money and lose your child? No I've seen too many parents out here lose their relationship with their kids.

**Q: How did you preserve yours with Venus and Serena?**

**A:** I wanted to be a dad. Lots of times during interviews Venus and Serena would say, "Well, my dad, he's my coach." And I'd say "Don't overdo it, coach, I'm a dad." I wanted to be a dad more than anything else because you could see the damage that was taking place with some of these kids.

**Q: Over the years, there have been a lot of critics of you...**

**A:** Oh God, yeah.

**Q: They're and you're not outcasts...**

**A:** Yeah.

**Q: You're too arrogant.**

**A:** Yeah.

**Q: You're an unnecessary distraction.**

**A:** Yeah.

**Q: Was one of that fact?**

**A:** I can't say if it was fair or unfair. I believe that anyone is entitled to think or say whatever they wish to say. All I know is I wouldn't let them change what I was doing. I remember my mom said to me one time, "You can't bring them up like I brought you up in the '60s and the '50s." But I think that's what's wrong with America. In America, we don't have kids who obey their parents. A lot of bad things could go wrong, but I wouldn't let it go wrong for them. Everyone was trying to get me to believe that Venus and Serena should be playing this moment of tournaments. And I said no. When Venus is 14, she can play one. At 15, she can play two. She's going to go to school and grow up as close as possible to the norms. I think that's what I took a lot of criticism for.

**Q: What is the most important thing you've taught your daughter?**

**A:** How to love God. How to love them selves. It's dangerous when a woman loves herself, because she has confidence.

Most men do not like a woman who has confidence. They're scared of her. If a woman is taught to love God, to love herself, and you instill confidence, you cannot tear her down. That's why Serena and Venus are so good. When they were small—before they were 10—had no wonder, no wonder, no wonder. You have to be ready for whatever comes your way. If not, you're going to have a problem.

**Q: You've said in the past that because Venus and Serena are black, even that never "accepted" them. Do you still think that?**

**A:** I know so. Even if you go back and look at the old cards being issued at their time age at the U.S. Open—go all the way back and tell me what black person you see getting one?

**Q: Do Venus and Serena believe that? Do they believe that they're not fully accepted?**

**A:** I don't know what Venus and Serena believe because we don't talk about that. That thing about racism and a black accepted, what do you think? If in your heart, if you know what's right, then you know that they're not.

**Q: Ten years ago you made a lot of headlines.**

**A:** I make headlines right now.

**Q: But not as easy. Have you noticed?**

**A:** I don't make as many headlines because I've asked parts of the media not to film me no more and I won't do [more] interviews no more. But I don't know as one who wouldn't want to interview me. When I get ready to go speak with [Barack] Obama, that will easily be done. I'm Richard Williams and Richard Williams can do anything he wants to. When I'm in England, I'll want to go see the Queen, I can do that. I just don't want it no more.

**Q: Ten years ago you said that you wanted your daughters to retire at 25 to focus on other projects. And yet, they've been able to do so many other things [from fashion to football—this week, the sisters brought a movie to life in the *Miami Dolphins* while still playing tennis professionally].**

**A:** That comes from the home. It was what my kids were taught. But some players in a rule are not that way.

**Q: So now, after all the talk and the out there around your Venus and Serena exceeded your expectations?**

**A:** Venus reached my expectations when she went to Warrington High School in England, Calif. She made A-levels in mathematics, in engineering, and set a record that most for a long time. I pushed education. I wanted them to understand that you can be the greatest athlete in the world but without the greatest knowledge in the world, you're going to lose all your money anyway.

**Q: There's been a lot of talk—a lot of speculation, a lot of—about growing during matches these days. How Venus and Serena perform**

from way back?

**A:** I don't know.

**Q: You don't remember?**

**A:** No, I do not. But I don't think there's anything wrong with it. To be honest, I think there's no nothing wrong with tennis.

**Q: What do you mean by that?**

**A:** In 1984 stress came to America and it has been the same, nothing has changed. They want you to sit there and be quiet. Turn your neck that way, turn it that way, and get a crick in it. Somewhere along the line you have to say, "Let's have some fun out here." Who wants to come out here, buy a ticket and sit still? It doesn't make sense. Until Venus came along, tennis was dead. Venus brought tennis to life. When Serena came along and added more life, tennis became a very popular sport all over again. Until

**SERENA WILLIAMS at the 2009 Rogers Cup**



**'When I'm in England, if I want to go see the Queen, I can do that. I just don't want it no more.'**

that, tennis had died and went to hell. I think they need to change tennis because it's dead.

**Q: So is it a mistake when the clock stops with tennis to be able to?**

**A:** I don't think crowds should be quiet—whether you're screaming, you're cheering, you're playing tennis. Change tennis and you'll get more fans. Change tennis and you'll get more sponsors. Change it instead you'll get more people to broadcast it. A lot of people in tennis that make decisions, they've never played tennis. ■



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STANDING ON GUARD: The Prime Minister is (supposedly) during August's Operation Nanook, the Canadian Forces' premier exercise in the Arctic.

# THE COLD TRUTH

**Why Harper's tough talk on Arctic sovereignty is empty**



PAUL WELLS

If you're going to defend Canada's sovereignty in the High Arctic, it is almost always a good idea to do it in the summer, and not to plan too high. Even then, there are no guarantees. It's a tricky business.

Earlier this month I sat in a briefing room in Iqaluit after an assessment of Canadian army officers explained some last-minute amendments to Operation Nanook '09. Every summer, Op Nanook is the Forces' premier Arctic exercise. Every summer it has more moving parts and tackles more ambitious goals. Prime Minister Stephen Harper takes this Arctic business very seriously. He has previously gone up north every summer since he was elected in 2006. He likes to say that in the quest to protect Canada's North

against various foreign intruders, the paradigm principle should be "use it or lose it." This year Op Nanook would see Canadian Forces soldiers, sailors and police, the Canadian Coast Guard, more than a dozen civilian ministries of the federal government, the entire federal cabinet, down to Iqaluit for a cabinet meeting fuelled with fresh seal meat, and bawling numbers of civilian and military public relations specialists, the better to orchestrate the Prime Minister's assorted photo opportunities.

And it would have gone off without a hitch if it hadn't been for the ice. "Weather and ice has played havoc with my original intent to land the force by air and sea at Iqaluit," the Northern Whaling Site (120 nautical miles from Iqaluit to the north coast), an email from Brig. Gen. David McIlhat, the commander of Joint Task Force (North), informed me the day before I flew to Iqaluit.

Here's what that meant. Military exercises are built around life scenarios. There's an element of play-acting involved. In Op

Nanook '09 a navy frigate, HMCS Toronto, and a coast guard icebreaker, the Radisson, were to motor east of Cape Henry and around the nose of Baffin Island to Resolute Island where, they were to imagine, aerial surveillance lance had spotted an unannounced drone aircraft going down. Whose drone was it? Where did it land? A few dozen soldiers from an Arctic reserve company group were to land and poke around until they found the "drone" ("It's made out of crutches, with duct tape," one of the braves admitted).

The point of it all was to show the world Canada's military can work anywhere on our territory. The other point was to get better at what Miller called "tactical integrated effect," in which all these military services would work together and with civilians to accomplish a task.

The problem was that when the Toronto and the Radisson went out to Resolute Island a few days early to look around, they found the waters of Davis Strait were dark with ice. "It was bumpy bits and gravel," one sailor said. "Shells of ice no bigger than a house,

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# IS PAKISTAN WINNING?

**Islamabad's tough line against extremists has yielded results**

**BY MICHAEL PETROSS** • In November 2006, as the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance and their American allies closed in on the collapsing Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Pakistani planes flew into the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar and evacuated hundreds of Pakistani intelligence officers, Taliban commanders, and al Qaeda personnel.

This was after then-Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf had pledged support for America's efforts to destroy al Qaeda and overthrow the Taliban. The United States knew about the shift and allowed it to happen. Reasoning that it was better to maintain the fiction that Pakistan was wholly on its side and to make a weaker adversary in Afghanistan than to make a stronger one, Washington declined to mention who had shifted from the pharos when it landed safely in Pakistan. "It is believed that quiet foreign overtures rescued from Kandahar their made their escape later from Tora Bora," writes Pakistan journalist

Ahmed Rashid in his 2008 book *Dissonant Chorus*, referring to Osama bin Laden's mountain stronghold from which he safely fled in December 2006.

For years after 9/11, relations between Pakistan and the Taliban that had once openly supported followed that pattern. Pakistan would make prudent public declarations about confronting extremists, and would indeed hunt down and kill or arrest foreigners, usually Arabs, al Qaeda members clashing within its borders. But the Taliban—either the Afghan or Pakistani variety—were generally accommodated. The Taliban in Afghanistan had provided Pakistan with "strategic depth," meaning a friendly regime on its rear flank as it faced its mortal enemy, India. The Taliban's direct strengthened an Afghan government with loose relations with India, a leaning Pakistan—on the eyes of an ally, and certainly of its spy agencies—could use as a vice.

But Pakistan's sponsorship of the Taliban was also on footing a monster that would, certainly, turn on its master. In 2007, when a bloody war of attrition between the Pakistani army and Islamist radicals and militants as the Red Mosque in Islamabad

resulted in more than 300 deaths and scores of retaliatory attacks and suicide bombings, Pervez Musharraf, a former prime minister who had returned to the country to oversee the 2008 general election, was murdered in December 2007.

"Al Qaeda's focus also shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan, where it saw a dormant but strong, a terrorist identity, and an opportunity to establish the state," writes Rashid. "For the first time, senior Pakistani officials told me, the army's corps commanders accepted that the situation had suddenly changed and the state was under threat from Islamic extremism." In fact, he says, the Pakistani army was fighting a civil war.

Only months ago, it appeared that this was on the verge of being lost. The Pakistani Taliban had used a series of moves with the army to consolidate and expand its reach. It had taken over most of Swat district and was moving into Buner, only 100 km from Islamabad, which itself came under attack. "They were really on a roll," says Bruce Hoffmann, a professor of security studies at Georgetown University.

But today, while it is still far too early to

speak of Pakistan defeating the Pakistan Taliban, it has reversed their expansion. A three-month offensive by the Pakistani army in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province has driven much of Swat and Malakand districts. The fighting was daunting and it placed more than two million civilians, but it has been largely successful. Hundreds of Taliban have been killed, and thousands have fled the fighting or begun to return home. The army has vowed to stay in the territory until local police and security forces can hold it themselves.

The Pakistan Taliban suffered a second serious blow in August, when a CIA drone attack killed their leader, Baitullah Mehsud. They are reportedly now shaken by fighting as rivals maneuver to succeed him.

There are several factors that have combined to shift momentum against the Taliban in Pakistan. Most important, there appears to be a pressure will on the part of Pakistan's army and security services to defeat them. "The Pakistan Taliban, when it

of the population. Pakistan was appalled by video footage made public in April that showed Taliban in Swat brutally whipping a teenage girl who had allegedly violated some aspect of Islamic law. This fueled excitement, combined with their seemingly unstoppable spread out of Pakistan's frontier regions and into the heart of the country, alarmed Pakistan's citizens. Many had previously believed that the Taliban threat was exaggerated or that they only threatened foreigners in Afghanistan. By this spring

**TAKING CONTROL** A soldier at his post in Buner district, northwest of the capital Islamabad, taking away a suspected militant in Swat, Taliban fighters in Afghanistan (left)



the potential for civilian casualties and their fire public anger, they have also eliminated senior Taliban leaders who would otherwise have been difficult to reach.

But Pakistan's offensive, while significant, is also limited in scope. The leadership of the Afghan Taliban is still safe in Quetta, a hub for the Taliban. The shadowy group behind last year's attack on the Indian embassy in the North West Frontier Province might be coming back under the aegis of the Pakistani Taliban and al Qaeda, a stronghold for both the Pakistani Taliban and al Qaeda, is beyond its reach. "What we haven't seen yet is a decision to go after the entire franchise," says Rinkel. "There is a selective response."

True, says Hoffmann, but he adds "Only a few attacks all on enemies at one time. The fact that they're taking action against the Pakistan Taliban, compared to a year ago, is an important step. It can be sustained over a moderate period and kept up at a fairly intense level, it would be a huge step forward."

The problem, especially for Afghanistan and for Canadian troops fighting there, is that Pakistan isn't convinced that the Afghan Taliban are their enemies. "I think they still see them as a useful tool," says Hoffmann. The reasons are the same as they have always been: Pakistan worries about India, and the Taliban are a tool to fight India's influence in Pakistan's backyard.

"From a Pakistan point of view, they're not comfortable surrendering their assets, especially when there's so much concern about what the United States is going to do in Afghanistan," says David Malley, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who previously worked at the U.S. State Department. "So they surrender their use to the Afghan Taliban if they're still useful."

The result is that Pakistan is trying to suppress potentially helpful militants—such as the Afghan Taliban or Taliban in India—from those that endanger Pakistan itself, such as al Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban. It's a risky strategy. "These groups are incredibly set worked and have expertise and personnel whom it takes time," says Malley. Pakistan, in other words, is still playing something of a double game. Jihadists will continue to find sanctuary there, in so long they don't threaten their home.

The Pakistani Taliban don't believe Pakistan. They may do so again. But, for now, they have been knocked on their heels, driven from large chunks of territory that they once controlled only months ago. That result itself would have been hard to predict earlier this year. It's a modest success, but it's an important one. ■

back Swat and then kept moving on, overplayed its hand," says Bruce Rinkel, a former CIA officer who, under this year, chaired an anti-spy agency review of American policy toward Pakistan and Afghanistan from the White House.

Even the Defense Secretary, Robert M. Gates, has been more powerful spy agency, has turned against the Pakistani Taliban. "The ISI is right at the center of the struggle against Barack Obama and what they regard as part of the plan of movement that has put us out of control and now needs to be brought back under control," says Rinkel, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank. "They are very actively involved in the business of trying to break the Pakistan Taliban into fractured little bits that can be more easily dealt with."

Recently, the army now has the support they accepted the necessity of a decisive confrontation.



**The Pakistani Taliban, when it took Swat and then kept moving on, overplayed its hand'**

they accepted the necessity of a decisive confrontation.

Finally, U.S. President Barack Obama's rebalancing of American aid, more efforts on South Asia but less on the ground in Pakistan. Co-operation between the United States and Pakistan has been slow. And while American drone attacks are risky because of



# IMAX THINKS NOT-SO-BIG

**Smaller screens may mean bigger profits—if viewers don't revolt**

**BY JAMES HENRY** For decades, Imax Corp., the indie company with the big screens, was a Hollywood outsider. Even as crowds were awed by documentaries about four-story sculpin, movies with stars of the Home Boxed variety were scarce. But behind the scenes the Imax script has recently undergone a remarkable renaissance. The Mission: Impossible, company-anchored new theaters' lightning speed, while studios are clamoring to bring their biggest films to the Imax screen. This month Imax turned its first quarterly profit in three years, thanks to blockbusters like *Mission: Impossible*, *Transformers* and *Star Trek*. "Three years ago we were knocking on doors in Hollywood saying, 'Will you please put your big-budget movie on our screen?'" but now the studios are knocking on our door," says Larry O'Reilly, head of theater development. The dramatic revival has seen Imax theaters go from threefold since November, making it one of the hottest trends on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

But this is Imax, which means it's always too early to predict a happy ending. So, from the company this brought you *Shawshank* Imax, *Apocalypse Now*, and a string of boxset films, comes the latest plot twist: Imax wants moviegoers to forget almost everything they think they know about Imax. Imax has toiled for Hollywood studios and venerable film profits, the company and its theater chain partners have taken the Imax road to the cutting room. Gone is the story strategy traditionally found in Imax cinema, many new Imaxs are just retrofitted multiplexes with the first few rows removed. The huge (and highly expensive) Imax film projectors are going now to the digital screen. And as for those premium screens, so some new theaters they're just 25 per cent larger than the place on the main floor. Where the company once marketed itself under the slogan "Think big," the focus now is on Imax as a cut above conventional cinema. In essence, Imax is transitioning from offering a seven-decade movie experience that can be so overwhelming that it's almost too much to handle, to a more sophisticated, more experienced, and more intimate experience in the same way that Dolby is selling more moviegoers to see movies in theaters than



THE ORIGINAL: Imax theaters featured natural wonders, but the money is in Hollywood fare

everybody to see believe you're actually building the band," says O'Reilly.

It's a high-stakes rebranding effort with the potential for huge gains, but it could just as easily damage the company's reputation with moviegoers who're used to the "big screen." Some worry that may already be happening. "When you ask people what they think of Imax, they say that means a giant screen," says James Hyde, editor and publisher of *LA Weekly*, a magazine that analyzes the high-format theater industry. "They're not being straightforward with people about their product, and eventually people are going to figure that out."

Putting an established brand under the knife, especially one like Imax that's typically forged as a young-age-on school to go, is always risky, and the consequences were plain to see in May. At Ann Arbor, a Los Angeles franchise, put an entire floor in to see *Star Trek* at a recently opened Imax theater in Barboursville, Kan. Later that day he blogged about his experience: "IMAX is whoring out their brand name and trying to stick people." Ann's

call for a boycott of Imax spread like wildfire across other blogs and news sites. One disgruntled viewer created an online map to distinguish what he called LIFEIMAX theaters: those with smaller screens—from the real thing. Imax's executives, meanwhile, charged the company for not coming down to prospective moviegoers about the smaller screens, and CEO Richard Gelfand briefly became the company's villain du jour. It would be easy to dismiss much of the viral as yet another celebrity-fueled cyber pile-on, except that even Roger Ebert, the movie critic, and Frank Marshall, who produced the half-a-dozen movies, have also blasted the company. "Don't spend your money for this," Marshall wrote on his Twitter page on June 1.

The latest episode comes just as Imax seemed to have found its Hollywood groove. In 1967 Imax presented movie technology with its 70 mm film (traditional movies used 35 mm film) and big screens, leading to first permanent theaters at Toronto's Ontario Place. But as the company rolled out theaters in other public spaces, it longed for mainstream suc-

## A FILM PRINT THAT MIGHT HAVE COST \$60,000 PER CINEMA BEFORE CAN NOW FIT ON A HARD DRIVE FOR \$300

cess. So in 1996 two New York investor-bankers, Gelfand and Brad Wachler, bought the company, took it public, and soon began to talk up Imax's prospects. In 1999 Gelfand predicted that within a decade Imax would have 100 theaters around the world.

As recently as 2007, with fewer than 100 theaters, it looked like Imax had no hope of reaching that goal. Nor had film directors come to embrace Imax's big screen. What's more, Imax had suffered a serious self-inflicted wound. The company failed to sell

off 100 new theaters, in one point phasing out many stock territory. (This week the shares hit \$19.40.) Securities regulations were onerous, and Imax was twice forced to restate its earnings. The company's 2007 loss was an Imax loss from those debacles. With its credibility shot, the analysts at big box stores and Wall Street brokers who once looked the Imax story turned out.

Yet, while all that was going on, Imax was quietly rethinking itself. It developed a tech rig to digitally remaster movies shot with regular cameras into the Imax format. It also spent millions developing digital projection technology, which it unveiled last year. The movie showed costs dramatically. A standard-length film print that might have cost \$60,000 per cinema before could now be stored onto a hard drive for as much as \$300.

At the same time the company contributed as business model. Rather than just sell its properties, Imax began signing joint-venture agreements with major cinema chains like AMC and Regal Cinemas. Imax supplies the projection, while the chains pay to retrofit the theaters. In 2010, Imax gave 45 per cent of the initial box office and concession sales. As a result, Imax's network of theaters is exploding. This year the company expects to have 145 commercial theaters in 42 countries.

(In addition to 121 theatrical theaters in countries and the like) — up 75 per cent in just two years. It took Imax 25 years to open its first 100 theaters, yet that's how many are expected to debut this year alone.

Hollywood has taken notice. By the end of this year Imax will have shown 13 major studio releases, including *The Dark Knight*, which grossed US\$65 million in theaters. Sell to some are highlights such as 3-D remakes of *A Christmas Carol*, starring Jim Carrey, and James Cameron's 3-D *Avatar*. The strategy is paying off in spades. In the second quarter revenue nearly doubled to US\$40.9 million, earning the company US\$2.1 million in profit compared to a US\$1.1 million loss last year. "Imax is the premium product in the industry as they can cherry-pick the best movies," says Ben Harris, an analyst at Guggenheim & Company in New York.

But this begs the question: is Imax being swept down in the pursuit of short-term profits? Sure, like Hyde, think so. He compares Imax's strategy to Coca-Cola's first shift to New Coke, when the beverage giant shared in real-time success for weeks after conducting extensive consumer research. Three months later customer backlash forced it to scrap the new drink and bring back the original in Coke Classic. To avoid a repeat in the theater world, Hyde says the company should brand the smaller theaters as Imax Digital or Imax Michigan.

Yet, for all the online hysteria spawned by *Avatar* blog posts, the fallout hasn't reached the box office. The recent season's record got lots of press, says Harris, but "people are still lining up outside the door on these big movies to see them in Imax." This could be because they have never seen an Imax movie in all its seven-story glory. But as the company adapts to go beyond even its stripped-down theaters, critics are regular cinema. The screens may be smaller, but under the canopy's gentler theater lights, they give the effect of being larger than they really are. Imax once had big screens, instead of just one, to show a huge picture on the screen. And as theaters are outfitted with Imax's power 64-watt system, built right into the screen. Still, O'Reilly says the company has taken most of the screen and is working with the studios to "redefine" moviegoers' expectations. "It's getting to be more like a position ticket. Because even as Imax tries to separate itself from the moviegoers known for its giant screens to one offering an overall premium movie experience, it knows its future lies in the balance." The most valuable asset we have as a company is the value of the brand," says O'Reilly. Last year, Imax could be back for a repeat engagement as a corporate box office brand. ■





## THANK GOD IT'S THURSDAY

**It saves both time and cash. Will the four-day workweek catch on?**

**BY COLIN CAMPBELL** • Oakland, Calif., just outside of Detroit, Mich., isn't just a city in transition and auto industry hub. Budgets are stretched to the breaking point and it's now considering asking employees to take a pay cut. But first, the county government did tell its employees one very nice thing: the chance to start working a four-day workweek. So far it's been a hit with the 470 workers (21 percent of the county's work force) who've signed on. "The employees absolutely love it," says Nancy Scatena, the county's director of human resources. How could they not? They can now enjoy long weekends all year, with no cut in pay. For vacation-starved North American workers, that's the staff dream are made of.

Oakland's four-day plan originally came about as a technique to raise gas prices last year. Workers would still work 40 hours, but by cutting a day of commuting, they'd save money with the added environmental benefit of putting fewer cars on the road. But there have been additional benefits for the money too, like declining overtime paychecks, says Scatena. Lately, the county has been struggling to contain some local businesses to follow its lead.

Oakland is far from the first jurisdiction to sign the graces of the reduced workweek. For the past year, Utah has imposed a Monday-to-Thursday schedule on 17,000 state employees—part of a trial program it calls "Working a Utah." It has shared millions from

its utility bills and cut greenhouse gases by over 10,000 tons. Last recent survey, 81 percent of the workers said they'd like to stick with the abbreviated week, says Jeff Herring, director of Utah's department of human resource management. There are ongoing trials in Washington state and Hawaii. West Virginia and Virginia are studying the benefits as well. From the U.S. Postal Service, then listed taking a day off each week. There are potential pitfalls—some argue that productivity won't suffer—but these experiments have led to the beginning of a rethinking of the Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 grind.

The four-day workweek has fallen in and out of vogue since at least the 1970s, when it was a popular reaction to soaring gas prices. Proponents say the toll-free benefits of having a day off the workweek (and controlling hours on the remaining four days) are too good to pass, particularly to governments struggling with rising deficits. New York's assemblyman Michael Gossman put it forward earlier this year as a "win-win proposition" that could save the state US\$10 million a year by reducing maintenance, transportation and building costs, as well as energy use. It cuts down on daycare costs and alcoholism rates, and both Utah and Oakland report that it helped them attract younger workers who are drawn to do more flexible schedules.

The severity of the current recession has been a big factor in ensuring the popularity of the shorter workweek, especially in Canada. There's been an "incredible enthusiasm" in government-sponsored work share

programs that allow workers to switch to 32-hour weeks to avoid layoffs, says David Robertson, the director of work expectations and modeling at the Canadian Auto Workers union. The CAW has close to 25 of its bargaining units participating in the program, with workers drawn on employment insurance for the one day they're not working. In the private sector, many companies have asked employees to volunteer for reduced workweeks in exchange for less pay.

The U.S. recession has forced work sharing programs, however, as typically temporary measures, and the major Thank God It's Thursday experiments in the U.S. are largely happening on a trial basis. Despite the benefits—both economic and environmental—there are no lagging doubts about the long-term viability of these programs. The trouble, say critics, is that a four-day workweek isn't actually very flexible, especially in a time when more and more families have two working parents. Do those kids coming back to the office, remember, after all, have to pick up the kids from daycare? (When the programs are optional, like Oakland's, there are plenty of logistical roadblocks as well, like making sure offices are adequately staffed, says Scatena. For mandatory programs, like Utah's, there's the obvious problem of having government workers closed an what can be one of the busiest days of the week.

For now, all eyes are on Utah, which will decide morning media whether to renege with an ambitious program. So far, the evidence suggests it's been a big success. Along with the employee satisfaction levels and cost savings, complaints from the public about local government offices have been no less than 10 a week that the state that down a complaint line it had set up, says Herring. "For all those who said they were concerned, a bigger group indicated they liked the trade off," he says.

At the very least, employees on a four-day workweek should enjoy a little bit of cash. There's always the alternative, as workers at the Canadian company GM discovered last month: According to a memo leaked by the Canadian Press, it's asking some employees to work an extra 2½ hours a week to increase its competitiveness—first as extra pay. ■

# LESSONS FROM GEOCITIES' DEATH

**Yahoo paid billions for it, then killed it. What went wrong?**

**BY KATE LUNDA** • As Facebook, Twitter and MySpace duke it out for Internet supremacy, another one might fly under the radar: GeoCities. On Oct. 16, Yahoo's GeoCities, a free Web hosting service, will be no more. Hailed as the Facebook of its time, GeoCities was once the third most visited site on the Web. Today, it's all but forgotten, and only a handful of diehards will mourn the company's passing. Yet, as fascinating treasury problems and valuable lessons for new media built on GeoCities' foundation, it's not enough to build a critical mass of users, critics say—if you can't make money from them, you will die.

Founded in 1994 by David Bahret, GeoCities allowed users to create personal websites, for free. "We had to emphasize, as people could do it as a matter of minutes," Bahret says. By making self-publishing on the Web more efficient, GeoCities "established the visibility of user-generated content," paving the way for Facebook and others. Pages were dropped into commentaries of interest. Hollywood sought for inspiration, for example, and Wall Street for finance. It was a model believed would appeal to advertisers, and it was an immediate hit with Internet users. "It put an e-mail entry time to me and signed it," Bahret recalls. With each one, his mind would make a new connection. "We were getting up to 10 sign-ups a second. It got to be so many, I had to turn it off."

In 1998, at the height of the dot-com bubble, GeoCities went public, becoming a billion-dollar company in a matter of hours. The following year, Yahoo paid an incredible US\$4.6 billion in stock for it, news of the sale made the *Wall Street Journal's* front page. "I thought Yahoo was a good home for GeoCities," Bahret says. "They had the resources to take advantage of the brand." Indeed, with roughly 1.5 million Web pages hosted there in the late 1990s, GeoCities was a traffic magnet. But despite the crowds who flocked to it, monetizing the site was another question.

GeoCities faced a challenge that today's social networking sites still grapple with: just because people like the site doesn't mean they'll respond to ads posted there. "A large proportion of the top 10 sites worldwide are devoted to social networking and self-expression," says Mary Lou Poth, former vice president of editorial at GeoCities. "But the revenue isn't there in the same numbers, not even close." (Twitter is the latest example of a "surprising" consumer application with no business model.)

By April, six days after Yahoo announced its offer to pay 10 percent of its workforce, the company announced GeoCities would be shut down, ending a run of 10 years to Yahoo's support of the site since late 1998. (A spokeswoman in an e-mail that GeoCities' closure was part of an "ongoing effort to build products and services that deliver the best possible experiences for our members and users for the future," noting that Yahoo is scaling back some services, while investing in others.)

Today, there are an estimated 80 million GeoCities accounts worldwide, with pages devoted to every topic imaginable: blue whales, long forgotten fairy tales, statistics, Madonna. By Yahoo's standards, they look stiff and cheery, yet according to Poth, they're a reminder of an important lesson: "It's never too soon to start thinking of an economic model," she says. "There are several models that can be used to make money in the Web." Even so, according to Poth, GeoCities had something else of value: a staff composed of "volunteer associations." GeoCities, she says, "was not a place that was undercapitalized." Despite all that activity, insiders claim the site soon after the takeover, things started to sour.

One former employee chalks it up to "not invented here" syndrome. "As GeoCities was

model," she says, like GeoCities in its early days, the company has been focused instead on building a critical mass of users. "Even so, according to Poth, GeoCities had something else of value: a staff composed of "volunteer associations." GeoCities, she says, "was not a place that was undercapitalized." Despite all that activity, insiders claim the site soon after the takeover, things started to sour.

One former employee chalks it up to "not invented here" syndrome. "As GeoCities was



**ONE FORMER EMPLOYEE CHALKS IT UP TO 'NOT INVENTED HERE' SYNDROME**

**THE HELPFUL TEAM AT BEST BUY**  
When two Best Buy employees, Jared Bergstrom, 20, and Colin Pratt, 23, confronted a shoplifter fleeing a discount store, some thought they'd receive a hero's reception. Instead, the store's president told workers off for being there looking at the store, who then walked out. "I don't want to see them. I want to see loyalty," said Pratt. Making physical contact with a customer is against store policy, Bergstrom admits.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK**

# ECONO WATCH

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE  
STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN  
NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

## LATEST INTELLIGENCE

When *Wired* gave the show a cash-for-content program in July offering up to US\$15,000 to show writers to travel on cars (patrons for new full-featured vehicles) shipped to employees in the troubled auto industry, US\$2.6 billion and 700,000 cars later, the program wrapped up the week. But exports remain down over its impact.

"We're going to give you the cash for content," program in July offering up to US\$15,000 to show writers to travel on cars (patrons for new full-featured vehicles) shipped to employees in the troubled auto industry, US\$2.6 billion and 700,000 cars later, the program wrapped up the week. But exports remain down over its impact.



"A billion dollars for cash for content looks dramatically more efficient, dollar for dollar, than anything else the Congress has passed yet." —Neil Snow, chief economist at Credit Suisse

## "We needed a shot in the arm and this is it."



—Cody Laak, president of the American International Automobile Dealers Association

"This was a nice little spot of sales, but it's almost to imagine it will have any lasting impact." —Roberta Unland, analyst at U.S. Global Vantage

"Any time we get one of these big surges in demand, it's usually followed by a period when sales are not as strong." —George Pappas, chief market analyst at the Ford Motor Company

"We're going to have a bangover." —Harrie Bandholz, economist at Chevrolet Motors

"Because this was bad and heavy for such a short period of time, we are going to have a payback." —Jeff Schmitt, analyst at D. Power and Associates

## THE ECONOGAUGE

Our weekly estimate of the prevailing mood among investors and consumers



## THE WEEK AHEAD

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28:** The U.S. Dept. of Commerce reports on current income and spending for July. Income is expected to rise by 0.1 percent over June, with spending up 0.2 percent.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 31:** USGS/CES releases preliminary preliminary payments for Q2. A \$12 billion current account deficit is expected.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3:** The U.S. Census Bureau issues Manufacturers Shipments, Inventories and Orders for July.

## THE GOOD NEWS

### A little retail relief

Canadians are opening up their wallets in a way they haven't for months. Retail sales jumped one percent in June from May. Rising prices in the past year accounted for most of the increase, but even after you strip that out, we're spending 4.4 percent more on everything from food to sporting goods. That's a healthy income in the last few months, a hopeful sign that Canadian consumers are on the mend.

CANADIAN  
RETAIL SALES  
+1%



### Better homes

American housing market is showing more encouraging signs of life. In the three months ending in June the S&P Case-Shiller home price index rose 3.4 percent.

In the three months ending in May, the second straight monthly gain. Home prices also rose in a quarterly basis for the first time in three years. Then, as U.S. home prices are still falling on a year-over-year basis, they are just not falling as fast as they were.

### Not so gloom

U.S. consumer spending on a basis August. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose to 54.1 from 49.4, boosting expectations. Americans feel better about the current economic situation, but the future prospects, which the index is far below 100, which is what should be in a healthy economy.

## THE BAD NEWS

### Where are the tourists?

In June the number of Americans crossing into Canada on some day trips (planned or unplanned) fell 26 percent from May to the lowest level since 1972. Tourist numbers, but not so in the strong boom, which is why Canada's economy is still struggling. Roughly two-thirds of Canada's \$75 billion tourism trade comes from American tourists.

### Feds in the red

Canada posted a \$1 billion deficit in June, as losses for the auto industry and employment in summer payrolls took their toll on the country's fiscal books. In the U.S., the administration suddenly noted a deficit for the first time in 14 years from US\$7 trillion to US\$9 trillion. On the positive side, the U.S. also showed US\$1.6 billion from assumed 2009 federal budget deficit.



U.S. SAME-DAY  
TRIPS TO CANADA  
-26%

### A stick recovery

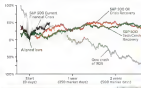
Scoring up prices helped by the world into a recovery, so the dramatic rise in the last week has many more red than a report. On the US\$75 billion, a high for 2008, on confidence that the U.S. economy is improving. The price of oil has jumped by 154 percent since December.

### The EI road to ruin

More Canadians are turning to Employment Insurance in the wake of huge job losses. In June there were 116,000 people collecting EI, up 1.1 percent from May, according to Statistics Canada. The largest percentage increase was in B.C. and Alberta.

## GRAPH OF THE WEEK

IS THAT IT? The graph shows the inflation-adjusted index of the S&P 500 rose 1.2 percent in July, but the 1929 depression low was 100.00 and the 2009 low was 100.00. So the S&P 500 is still anything but a past recession. (You're going sideways.)



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES



► The rich have been getting richer for 30 years now, but they're old and old only by age. Now figures show that for the first time in decades, the share of total income earned by wealthy Americans may be in decline. According to CapGemini and Merrill Lynch, Wealth Management, the number of Americans with a net worth of at least US\$1 million shrank by 24 percent last year. No need yet on whether that means they're more money left over for the rest of us.

► When gas prices soared and the economy hit, Hammer sales took a dive. But Jim Lynch-Hammer in Channahon, Ill., didn't take the blow lying down. Lynch has decided to start stocking medical supplies, handbags and shoes, along with the truck like vehicles at his dealer shop. In fact, he says, his gas and Hammer's car has been a big hit.

► There's been a lot of talk about "overcapacity" in the global car company assembly plants and warehouses at empty. But the trucking industry has found a solution. It is a largely decaying market opportunity by sending second numbers of container ships to the scrapyard. It's projected that the number of ships sent to scrapers this year will be double that of last year, setting a new high.

► Who wants to be a billionaire? The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis just released new figures showing that the pay package enjoyed by U.S. federal civilian workers over private sector workers is soaring. The average federal worker now receives compensation worth US\$148,961 per year (including wages and benefits)—more than double the US\$69,909 average for private sector workers.



DUNCAN  
MOOD

So how does that recovery? The mood is? The bad, because the last few months might be as good as it gets for a while.

According to our Graph of the Week (see right), compared to other rainy seasons of the past, the S&P 500 has already enjoyed one of the best rebounds ever. The bad news is, that may be all the rebounding you're going to see for some time. Because if the economy is anything like the previous ones, we're either just on the cusp of a plunge into the next Great Depression, or (more likely) we're in the a few years of going sideways, as we did after the oil crisis of 1973 and the tech crash of 2001-02.

It's certainly possible that we could embark on a new bull market and pick up where we left off in 2007, but the smart money seems to be on a recovery of the increasingly slow variety. Why? As Warren Buffett wrote in the New York Times last week, mainly because "enormous dosages of monetary medicine continue to be administered" by the government, and "before long, we will need to deal with their side effects." In short, the U.S. has taken on its largest non-income deficit since 1980 to get us out of this, and it's all racking up debt at a frightening rate. Eventually that money will need to be paid back, and even the U.S. will be insured by the effort.

As Buffett writes, if the Chinese and other top players of America's current economic debt invest every penny in U.S. debt, and Americans themselves use more money than they have in years and even all of them in U.S. debt now, the U.S. Treasury will still be US\$600 billion short. That will put enormous pressure on the President to cut spending and hike taxes, or even worse, crash up these money prices and value in years of early inflation.

Buffett's analysis, by the way, was the main topic of these discussions on What Comes Next to emerge over the past little while. In the second, EdGlobe, the legendary co-founder of FOMCO, wrote that he thinks the days of five per cent annual increases in American GDP are over, and we may have to get used to three per cent growth instead. That would lead to a "vicious cycle of recession or low-growth stagnation" and a person of the labour market "will have to be permanently laid off." The third outcome, by Nobel laureate, professional bear and professor of economics at New York University, was on depressing I don't even want to go into it.

Enjoy the sunshine. It could be a long, cold winter. ■

## OVERDRAWN by Jason Logan





IN KENYA's Nairobi slums, children pay three dollars for a gallon of water because the public system doesn't serve them at all.

# THE MARKET SOLUTION

**Public water systems promote waste and deprive the poor. Is privatization the cure?**



BY KIMBERLY MACDONALD Back in 1999, when Bolivia decided to privatize water services in Cochabamba, the country's third largest city, it didn't imagine for a second that water would unleash mobs of angry Bolivians, some armed with Molotov cocktails, rioting in the streets in protest. Martial law was declared, and in the ensuing violence one person was killed and several others were injured. Eventually the government withdrew the private water contract, and thereafter, the U.S. engineering giant overseeing the water system, was run out of the country. Since then, doctrinaire such as The Ceres Institute, like Gold and Flue have used footage of the riots to highlight the perils of water privatization. But it's too bad the filmmakers didn't stick around to see how things turned out.

Since water delivery has been returned to the water utility, things haven't improved at all. Fully 100 per cent of the new infrastruc-

ture is "not qualified to perform their responsibilities," according to one former senior staffer. Two divisions of the water authority have since been indicted for corruption, several managers have been fired for sexual charges, and the utility is now hobbled by inefficiency, nepotism and "blatant company corruption," according to one recent study by the Transnational Institute. Now, party politics and electoral concerns determine "who gets service and when," and the "fragmented hodgepodge" of expansion projects is neither coherent nor technically viable. Fully half of Cochabamba's people are still without water, and those who have service only have it sporadically—for some, as little as one hour a day. "I would have to say we were not ready to build new infrastructure," admitted Oscar Olivera, who led the Bolivian protests that forced Bechtel out.

It had long been feared that privatizing water services is bad for the poor, bad for the environment, and leads to the unequal distribution of water. The usual argument is that private companies will put profits ahead of people, cutting off the supply of fresh water to those who can't afford it. However, new evidence has emerged showing that the opposite may be true. Right now, more than 90 per cent of the world's local water distri-

bution systems are non-subsidized, and in many countries, they're doing a terrible job. Currently, 1.1 billion people—one sixth of the world's population—do not have access to clean drinking water. Meanwhile, wealthy countries such as Canada, the massive subsidies of the system lead to a massive waste. That was fine when water was cheap and plentiful, but it's becoming less so, and the subsidies are creating a dangerous illusion. Some say privatization could lead to more scientific pricing, less waste, and better distribution—even to the world's poor.

Over the next four decades, water use is expected to triple as the world's population grows by a predicted three billion people to 9.1 billion. At the same time, global warming appears to be speeding up the hydrologic cycle, making wet areas wetter and drier areas drier. By 2030, nearly half of the world's population will inhabit areas of severe water stress, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In short, more water will soon be required to slake the thirst of a world that many say is already using too much.

But right now we're still using fresh water at such a high rate that "groundwater supplies and surface supplies throughout the world are dropping rapidly," says Boston-based

trade analyst Michael Lomonos of Lomonos Associates. "The infrastructure is collapsing and people aren't willing to pay, nor are utilities willing to raise the price high enough to pay for repairs. We're entering an irreversibly—not as the asset that it really is."

The problem is that in some parts of the world, such as Canada, fresh water is cheap and plentiful, so it gets wasted, while in areas where it's scarce, governments often have little incentive to get it to the people who need it the most. "Scarcity is not a quantity issue, it's a distribution issue," says law professor Gabriel Lickson of the Texas Tech School of Law. "We have enough fresh water globally to provide every person on earth a hundred times over." Private water markets, he says, could get it to the people who need it. For example, Singapore has been buying water from Malaysia, and Israel has considered a similar agreement with Turkey. Greenland, newly flush with glacial runoff thanks to global warming, is looking to export surplus supplies, according to its deputy minister of foreign affairs. It has to pay out of the world's fresh water reserves and a population that barely tops 57,000.

If water distribution was prioritized, prices for individual consumers would likely rise, but not with one, but two, because the global effect of creating conservation. Prices for industry and agriculture, which use 30 and 70 per cent respectively, would likely rise a third system. But it would be "very efficiently" implemented by the market, says Lickson. "At some point, you let the market come up with its own price," he says, "which it will equate to do."

Some worry that charging market prices for water could lead to humanitarian concerns: the poor, who can't have the money to pay for it, could be cut off. But this assumes the poor have not been cut off already, which is true in many countries. In the developing world, only the economically powerful—industry, agriculture and cities—have access to cur-

ring water, says Ashish Gulati, senior staff scientist with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. People living in slums and rural areas do without.

The truth is that many of the world's poorest people are, generally, already paying three to six times the global average price for water, due to the failure of public utilities to provide any access at all, says Caroline Bove, a director at London think tank the International Policy Network. In Kibera, a sprawling Nairobi slum—the biggest in Africa—the only way to get water is through a network of patron that provide water to 500,000 people a day, hauling it in containers on their backs or by donkey. By some estimates, more than half the population of cities in the developing world get their water this way.

Activists who warn against the dangers of privatization are right to be wary. Tending water is not like trading oil or foodstuffs: there are no substitutes. Because of this, the idea that water can be sold for private gain is still considered "unacceptably" by many, says James M. Olson, one of the top environmental lawyers in the U.S. But scarcity and the lure of extraordinary profit, he says, may "involve extraordinary public sensibilities."

The solution may be not in banning private markets in water distribution, but allowing freely functioning markets, held to account by tight government regulation.

Because of increased competition for water, "humanity is converging on the need to make public policy made of that have never to be made before," says Robert Sandford, chair of the UN Environment Canada. "In many parts of the world, cities are competing with one another, with agriculture, and nature—for water, and we're going to have to make some very difficult choices." Given their flexibility and capacity to tailor economic incentives and technological innovations, market-based incentives are well suited to address the precious water future. "No matter where you stand in privatization," says Bove, "nobody should be happy with the status quo."



**We have enough fresh water to supply every person on earth. The problem is distribution.**



## DOWNLOAD MUSIC TO SAVE THE PLANET

Our wonder if it's greener to buy a CD or download it? Turns out it's the latter, according to a new U.S. study. After tracing the environmental impact of producing CDs, then packaging and delivering them, they found that downloading an album can reduce energy and carbon dioxide emissions related to the purchase between 40 and 60 per cent, thanks to skipping to the store can eliminate the driving. Still, it's more to a environmentalists' ears.

**We won't run out of water. Will we?**



Learn how you can help.  
**Go Blue.org**



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# MILLIONAIRE MURDER

The fast times and tragic end of a Calgary developer turned reality television star

BY NICHOLAS KÜHLER AND RACHEL MENDLESON

**R**yan Alexander Jenkins has showed up in Calgary in early June and found himself strangely alone. For several months he had been traveling back and forth between Calgary, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, where he had just completed filming a reality television program. "I think he came back without a lot of friends," says an old drinking buddy, Chris Turry, who, like Jenkins, is both a realtor and an aspiring actor. "It was almost like he was following me around to different places where I was at, casually meeting one man and buying me drinks."

In fact, Jenkins seemed badly to talk. His relationship with 28-year-old Jennifer Poree, the Las Vegas model he'd married in March, only days after meeting her, was in trouble. "He was saying that he was just being used and had to end that everyone was making fun of him," says Turry. Turry did not think much of Poree, whom he'd met at a party party in the spring during one of his visits to Canada with Jenkins. And he had reason to be skeptical of his friend's professed feelings for the woman: he still called his wife Jenkins was working the Living Room—a trendy Calgary hotspot—collecting telephone numbers from the buxom blonde he had always found so unattractive. "She was like a hawk that had seen his prey," says Michelle Flett, one woman who met him on a date that night. "He said that he had an open relationship," says Turry. "I laughed at that one."

Now, after Poree and Jenkins's bizarre and tragic ends, Turry is more reflective. "I feel really bad," he says, his voice breaking. "Maybe I could have prevented this by giving him the time of day and talking to him And I just didn't." In interviews with *Max* this week, friends described Jenkins as at once charming and insecure—too eager to please his male buddies, too quick to throw tantrums when a girlfriend failed to do as he asked. His intimacy with women—like com-

HIS FRIENDS describe Jenkins as at once a charmer with a selfish smile, and insecure



In one video of the pair, Jenkins points at himself: 'Luckiest guy in the world,' he says

mand quickly, more than once talking a love interest into Las Vegas—may have made him a poor fit for Poree, whom they call demanding and manipulative. Poree's friends, meanwhile, maintain she was sincere but strangely secretive about the marriage that would be her downfall.

The arc of the pair's brief life together—photographs and love letters—began profiling on the Internet the day a local colorist, posing around an Orange County damper, discovered Poree's nude body in a website last week. Eerie as the video is, one, then Jenkins's thousand Myspace page and first posted by the gossip website TMZ, a bikini-clad Poree gyrates with a stripper's poses—twisting her dark hair back expertly, around the camera—somewhere where pale men grow "Wow" and gasp a man's voice. "God, I love my life. And I love my wife!"

Then Jenkins, over the reality TV star, turns the camera on himself. "Luckiest guy in the world," he says, pointing at himself. "Right here?" Within a few weeks, Poree would be dead—very angry bones, strangled, her fingers severed, her neck removed—and Jenkins hanging from his neck by a belt in a British Columbia town called Hope.

It has become increasingly difficult to do a single Jenkins's reality life in a reality television. After the *Discovery* last week of Poree's body, the U.S. tabloid shows stood on the story of the 12-year-old Megan Meier, a *McKenzie* contestant, facing life with the charming spectacle of Nancy Grace and Larry King. The crime perhaps asked no strange apothecary when Denise Chapin, the TV star of *Dog the Bounty Hunter*, offered to help authorities in Canada find Jenkins after he disappeared by boat to B.C. "The media just went bananas," Ryan's mother, Nade Jenkins, told *Max*. "I had been in a reality show, I don't think they ever would have bothered with him. It would have been a regular..." She pressed, weeping. "I think this whole situation would have turned out differently." Despite it all—the fight from authorities, the high speed

lost chase along the Washington coast with her, his apparent suicide—Nade remains her son played no role in the murder. "Ryan is a good young man and I have to prove his innocence—that's my goal in life," she says. "I believe my son is innocent."

Judging from his youth, things should have turned out differently. "The kid had everything, most everything," anyone close friend, a 33-year-old Calgary entrepreneur. "If you know Ryan, everything is cool. The guy had a great lifestyle and good people around him." The son of Dan Jenkins, an internationally known Calgary architect, he attended Western Canada High School, a downtown, old-worldy institution that serves the city's affluent Mount Royal neighborhood. A bright student, he nevertheless left in with a bad crowd, prompting his parents to send him to boarding school in Victoria.

By 2001, Jenkins, now 24, was in business with his father developing wealthy potential media through Townsquare Development Inc., he was elected as president. He would go on to work as a developer and realtor in the height of Calgary's real estate heyday. His early projects were "very chic, very stylish, very contemporary," recalls Turry. Poree, a 48-year-old Calgary engineer, Jenkins, too, was a high achiever. "He had a good sense of taste—he was a good dresser," says Poree, now, a single mom. "He had a good sense of taste—he was a good dresser," says Poree, now, a single mom. "He had a good sense of taste—he was a good dresser," says Poree, now, a single mom. "He had a good sense of taste—he was a good dresser," says Poree, now, a single mom.

He was younger than most of his buddies, collection of well-born all-around and not alone phenomena whose deep pockets allowed them to play as hard as they worked. "A lot of times we were rolling around at times, kind of L.A. style," says Turry. "We were rolling



BUENA VISTA, after Poree's body was found, her family and friends at the public press conference





# TOO FAST TO BE CLEAN?

**WHY THE WORLD'S FASTEST  
MAN CAN'T RUN CLEAR  
OF CONTROVERSY**

**BY CHARLIE GILLER** • Of all the athletes, coaches, medical officials, biomechanists, and wisdom, *Providence*, and smart and smart pundits who weighed in on Usain Bolt's performance last week, perhaps none captured the magnitude of the sprinter's accomplishment better than Brian Segal. An astrophysicist by training, and a data cruncher by inclination, Segal was in front of his TV in Portland, Ore., when the lucky Jamaican performed the athletic equivalent of a quantum leap at the world track championships, lapping 10 seconds off the world record in the 100-m dash and sending the crowd in Berlin into a frenzy.

Seemed, Segal proceeded directly to his computer. There he assembled a graph charting world records in the 100 m against time, in hopes of illustrating how radically Bolt's times diverged from the historical norm. Sure enough, the resulting trend line could be likened to a more eye-popping a cliff. Up

there was everyone else's record, down there was Bolt's—some 30 years ahead of where it should be according to the historical trajectory, and remarkably close to the theoretical limit of human velocity. To Segal, the graph bore an eerie resemblance to comparisons he'd been hearing to Bob Beamon, an American long jumper whose 8.9 m leap in 1968 stood as the world record for 23 years. "I've never seen anything like this before in any sport," he says. Others weren't so impressed. "I was part of the match behind this performance," sniffed one commentator on Segal's site. "It's actually the contrary."

Bolt? A legend? The comparative sprinter took at the thought. At 23, the boy with the golden shoes has dashed his way into the hearts of sports fans with eye-popping times and a sense of whimsy that makes his competition hyper-anxious. After blowing away the field in the 100 m in Berlin, Bolt crowed on to the 200 m with all the solemnity of a sack racer at a picnic. He staggered like the cornered and fished with his opponents while milling around the blocks. As when he seemed more preoccupied by the eager crowd than the race ahead. Yet there again, he made history, tying 11 of his own previous world record with a time of 29.27 seconds, and leaving an impressive class of competitors in his dust. Indeed, his sprint felt both to be legendary. Never has it looked so fun.

Still, the global exhilaration when Bolt tested class following the 100 m is confined to the fast lane. Most of the young runners—Scotsmen of pure Scottish and fueled by the sheer exhilaration of his accomplishment. Since the advent of electronic timing in 1964, no one has legally reduced the 100 m record by more than .07 seconds. Bolt had nearly doubled that margin, which has led to some unpleasant comparisons. The last person to improve a world record by a tenth of a second, after all, was one Ben Johnson, whose 9.83 in August 1987 shattered Calvin Smith's previous mark of 9.93.

Johnson, one would hardly say, went on to run 8.79 at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul before testing positive for the steroid stanozolol. The Canadian runner's 40-watt steroid now stands as the opening chapter in a doping saga that would bring down one of the greatest stars of track and field. All but two of Johnson's opponents in the 1988 Olympic final were later implicated in doping scandals, including his rival Carl Lewis, whose positive test had been suppressed by U.S. track authorities. The BALCO scandal followed, laying low the biggest sponsor of the pro Bolt era, including Marion Jones. Tim Montgomery and Kelly White of the U.S., along with Dwain Chambers of Britain. For a time, it appeared that drugs were a pass key to elite sprinting.

If you didn't do them, you didn't win. "Someone observed that, sorry history alone is enough to question the validity of Bolt's performance." "Next to cycling, track and field is about the most tainted sport there is," says Charles Trentham, a retired professor from Penn State University and a prominent critic of anti-doping efforts in this sport. "What's gone on in the past 40 years isn't enough to raise your suspicion [of the] Bolt, then about the best thing I can say about you is you're alive!" Since the astonishing progression of Bolt's personal results (since 2003, he has dropped an untold of .72 seconds from his time in the 100 m) and a further every night or second-guess, any doubt. "When you train in any sort of athletic, you expect a sort of toothy curve in improvement. In the event of dramatic changes in times or performance, an honest coach or someone in authority should be asking, 'What's going on?'"

At least one of Bolt's former competitors has said as much publicly. After last summer's Olympics in Beijing, German sprinter Robert Unger voiced suspicion about Bolt's superhuman feat to fatigue when he times got. He has been training obsessively, and described the young runner's dominant Olympic performance as "a fever." "Bolt didn't even warm up for the world final," said Unger, who ended his sprint career in Germany. "He was there on 9.9 seconds in May and again at the end of September. He showed no tiredness, no tiredness." Unger, who was knocked out of the Olympics in the semifinals, didn't see a straight line of Bolt's doping but he did question the reputation of Jamaica's anti-doping regime. "They do whatever they want on their island," he said pointedly. "Nothing happens so often."

In fact, several of Bolt's teammates have recently run afoul of anti-doping rules in that country. Just one month before the championships in Berlin, two Jamaican runners were called home after testing positive for an unidentified banned substance during the country's national track championships. The news sent a shock wave through the track world, at least two of the accused athletes trained at the same track club as Bolt. An annual official of Jamaica's anti-doping commission has since been quoted as saying the drug involved is not a steroid. But it's not like the case has done Bolt any good.

How, then, is a young track star supposed to ease such concerns? Donovan Bailey, Canada's former Olympic champion, can offer at least a few suggestions from personal experience. He was *Track and Field News*'s "Sprinter of the Decade" for the 1990s, a period shared by Johnson's disgrace and, best, with subsequent steroid scandals. Bailey came of age in the 100 m at the 1984 Summer Games (and for three years, making him a jockey target for non-believers). As too did he stepped off 12.1 in the second during the final in Atlanta, the fastest any human has been clocked as before Bolt. "For years," he recalls, "people expected me of using steroids."

His response to the question of whether the newly industrial drug testing protocols that most runners shudder at enough they tossed everyone in his sport at a suspect. "I was the only athlete who rode out the blood and urine at any occasion whatsoever," he recalls. "I

## 'NEXT TO CYCLING, TRACK AND FIELD IS THE MOST TAINTED SPORT THERE IS'



**UNLAPIDATING COMPARISONS:** The best person to improve a world record by a tenth of a second was one Ben Johnson

think that helped with any suspicion. We weren't avoiding the system. We didn't have secret training camps anywhere. Anything they wanted we gave it to them." Bolt has been remarkably co-operative with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Bailey notes approvingly, and appears to be aware of the enormous money involved. "At the end of the day, it's his legacy. If he does something right, all the wonderful things happening to him now will just come back to haunt him."

Bolt, Bailey's approach doesn't work out today, at events have exposed serious track contacts in the anti-doping mission since Bolt left the track. Among its many other revelations, the BALCO scandal showed WADA remains vulnerable to so-called "designer" drugs such as the one used by Jones and Montgomery. Designer steroids are often



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U OF WATERLOO has the largest computer science and mathematics faculty in the world

## SMALL BUT SMART

**Why some schools don't want a Big Five monopoly on research**

**BY COLIN CAMPBELL** • The University of Waterloo emerged as one of the leading research centres in quantum computing and digital media. Its computer science and mathematics faculty is the largest in the world. In terms of the number of grants and funding it attracts per faculty member, it is among the most research-intensive universities in the country. But Waterloo is not one of the so-called Big Five universities, which recently proposed in an interview with *Maclean's* a radical rethinking of the higher education system: boosting government research funding and consensus to the biggest universities—i.e., them—while leaving other schools that focus toward undergraduate education.

The proposal of the Big Five—British Columbia, Alberta, Toronto, McGill and Montreal—undoubtedly doesn't sit well with Waterloo's president, David Johnston. "How sad it would be for us," he says, "to see Waterloo losing of high priority for funding because you don't happen to be in the Top Five universities." "I see," Johnston says, "simply because you're big doesn't mean you're great."

Waterloo isn't alone in its aversion with the idea of the Big Five. The notion of creating two-tier systems, which would favour a select group of big schools, has created concern among many smaller but highly regarded research universities, like McMaster, Queen's, Carleton and Victoria. "It's my experience at this size can't compete on an international

stage in terms of funding," says Fiona McNeill, associate vice-president of research at McMaster University in Hamilton, which has done leading research on stem cells and robotic surgery. McNeill does not contest the Big Five proposal, but she does not want to put academics against one another—and potentially launch Canada's system of higher education into a downward spiral.

Given scholarship that, at least in theory, there is some merit to the Big Five's idea, large schools might be best equipped to become major centres of research. In the U.S., a few prestigious schools—many of them private—dominate research, while hundreds of smaller liberal arts colleges feed them with well-trained undergrads. By contrast, Canada produces fewer Ph.D. or master's-level graduates, and fewer qualified undergraduates.

In reality, however, Canada's higher education landscape appears to be ready to be ill-suited to the Big Five's proposal. Of 31 universities, 10 do not do competitive research through their Ph.D. programs. David Wells, the incoming principal of Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., points out that schools like Queen's already receive both research and undergraduate education. Like the heads of several other universities, Wells says that rather than focus-

ing on a few schools, "the dollars should fall low excellence in research."

Yet deciding how to divvy up funding is a perennial problem. Canada's system of publicly funded universities is not as flexible as the more heavily private U.S. system, where research centres enjoy large private endowments. In Canada, boosting funding to a few big universities means taking away from others.

It could also have some unintended consequences, says Rosemary O'Reilly Kavanagh, president of Carleton University in Ottawa. "If you say to the small universities, 'You can't compete,' then they'll just fold their arms," she says. "And if you say to the large institutions, 'You've got it, you don't have to compete,' they'll be complacent." David Tarpley, president of the University of the North, suggests that by allowing both faculty and money to go where it wants, "you end up with a differentiated system. That is the key for success."

If Canada really is going to excel, it would at least need to use money wisely, private U.S.-style liberal arts schools except, argues David Strangway, a former president of the University of Toronto and UBC. So far, only one school is like that: Queen's in Squamish, B.C., which Strangway founded. David Holland, the president of Queen's and a professor at Carleton University, says problems with the Big Five proposal. Many universities would not be able to easily switch from only to undergraduate teaching, and asking them to do so is like inherently confrontational, he says. "Just by its nature," he says, "we are not, and we are second rate." People don't like to be called second rate.

Amid the talk of making Canada more competitive with the U.S., Holland says another comparison—to Britain over the past 20 years. The U.K. tried to push research into universities to determine which schools should get the bulk of research funding. The aim was to create two kinds of universities: those that excelled in research and others focused on teaching. But the effort created an elite-elite system to win funding that was "totally absurd," and is now being done away with. "It failed miserably in the U.K. at making two kinds of universities," Holland says, "and I suspect it will fail here."

With Stephanie Finkley



### YAWNING STUDENT GETS A MOUTHFUL... OF CHALK

Forget washing your mouth out with soap, chalk is now the disciplinary tool of the day. The head teacher of an elementary school in Kochi prefecture in Japan warned his class that the next student who yawned would get chalk in their mouth. One student didn't expect his mouth and the teacher got a three-minute class of chalk in it. The teacher's salary was cut by 10 per cent for three months because of the incident.



# Mum's fine, Dad's an absolute mess

Some men take it worse than their wives when kids go

BY MONROE POLAK • It's not just moms whose heads drop when their offspring fly the nest. It's dads, too. In fact, with more and more dads playing an important role in their children's upbringing, many modern fathers take it hard when their children leave home. Some suffer even more than their wives do.

Serge Bonzharevich is still adjusting to the fact that his children, Ali, 25, and Yon, 23, have left the family home in Montreal. "It's been easier for Anne," Bonzharevich said of his wife Anne Solon, a lawyer. "Her work is much more structured than mine. I was a quasi-house husband," said Bonzharevich, 56, a video producer who works mostly out of a home office.

It wasn't his bad, Bonzharevich says, when Ali left for the University of Toronto, Cohen left in 2002. "She went with her boyfriend, so I felt she was not alone. There was also the fact that Yon was still at home," but when, two years later, Yon left for prep school—and a hockey scholarship—in New Hampshire, Bonzharevich had a hard time. "I cried—no big deal, but Anne—when we dropped her off," and Bonzharevich. "When Yon left, there was a sense of emptiness because I did so many things together. Since Gabe, 1, he was so involved in so many sports: hockey, football and soccer. It was a sports kind of guy, so it was never a time when he left, all that was gone. It was like losing a job," said Bonzharevich.

Guy Gensky, a Montreal-based Jungian analyst and author of five books including the bestselling *Adolescent: Last Sons*, is an expert on the male psyche. Gensky believes men are becoming more comfortable expressing their emotions and that they are growing closer to their children. "Thanks to feminism, men have invested more in their relationships with their children. And the stronger the attachment, the harder the separation will be," said Gensky.

Anne Solon was not surprised when her husband broke down after each of their children moved away. "It was consistent with who Serge was. He always loved his children close by," she said. Bonzharevich's remaining daughter is one of the qualities that attracted

Solon to him when they met nearly 30 years ago. "He used to tell me he wanted a child in every window. Serge is a really daring father. I'm more like that husband of other days. I go downtown in the office and sometimes I have to work late," Solon said. Solon still recalls that her children were asking about their own. "I thought this was absolutely wonderful. My emotions were, 'What to do? This is just great! You're going to see the world! Even when they were little, I



"I cried the whole way back," says one dad

always pursued the children over on loan for a period of time," she said. Margarete Bouassarian, 54, a French Canadian, says her heart has shattered by her European mother's crying gene. When his daughter Caroline Maddy, now 21, first left home at 17 to study in Vancouver, Friedman broke down. "We had to pack up her house

Her boyfriend started crying. I told him, 'You idiot!' and then I started crying, too. I was more emotional than my wife. It was like I couldn't get it out of me," he recalled.

Caroline lived only a year in Vancouver. But three months after moving back home, she announced she wanted to study fashion at Toronto's Yorkton University. "It drove me over the top," Friedman said. Again, Friedman found the packing up tough. "But the saddest part was when we actually moved her. My wife stayed in Toronto for a few days. I threw back and that was it. I cried the whole way back. The other passengers said so thought I'd bawled someone," Friedman recalled.

Friedman thought that after that weepy flight, he'd be done grieving. "For the first week or two, everything was fine, but then I had to go into her room for something, and I lost it," he said.

Christmas are harder for Chris, 51, a Toronto mortgage broker who asked that he lose his job. He used to be in this job because of a difficult breakup with his ex-wife. Chris's daughter Tasha, now 21, left Toronto in the fall of 2001 to take some time off school. "I miss her 24-7. But Christmas is really tough," he said.

Tasha was three when Chris and his wife split up, but she moved in with her dad when she was 13 and the two became inseparable. "We went to museums, concerts, movies. We traveled across most of Canada. I've still been a daddy for her while she's grown up," he said. These friends have become a source of support group for Chris. "They come to check on me, to see if I'm okay and that their friend is on the right," he said.

Betsy and Carol Friedman separated last year, and Betsy believes the separation was triggered by the kids' departure. Ben Friedman is filling his time with his passions. He's begun fishing again, and when Caroline, 7, has returned from Toronto to live in her own apartment in Montreal, Friedman had her sitting, the wanted in. "Every Sunday morning this winter, we were sitting together. It gave us a time. I've had to grow up. I've had to learn how to treat both my kids as adults," Friedman said.

Bonzharevich and Solon have each other, their work and a household of pets—an aging dog and three one-year-old puppies. "They're our surrogate kids," and Bonzharevich. ■

YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY



## NOTHING STRONGER THAN A MOTHER'S LOVE

Awakening at a middle home in Highway 20, a 19-year-old mother, her newborn son, and her newborn son, she found herself in a hospital with her newborn son. She was a single mother. The four officers drove for cover after Laura Hurrell found a shell through the door. Laura was injured in the home-borne standstill that followed, although two more shots were fired by Hurrell, as for the suspect. He was found hiding in a closet.

# WHEN YOU'RE THIS TOUGH THEY CALL YOU PUNCH

Lost in the bush for days? Ernie McLean's been in worse scrapes.



THE PLANE CRASH was worse. He lost his eye, broke his jaw. "This time I wasn't hurt"

BY KEEN MACGIBERN • Who knows how many times legendary Western Hockey League team owner and coach Ernie "Punch" McLean gave the locker room speech about never giving up when things look grim? Certainly enough to lead his New Westminster Bruins to four consecutive Memorial Cups in the mid-1970s, and two national titles, Canada's first two national hockey titles, enough to enhance the role of his second career as a powerplayer and gold miner. Most recently last week—at age 77, and last few days without rest, camped or fished while working his Sierra Creek gold property in the dense bush of northwestern B.C.—he gave the speech to himself.

Even a guy as stubborn, angry and proud as McLean—hungry, yes, cold and better by negotiation—had to camp down. "It hurt?" he wondered. "Is this the end of the trail for me?" But with the roadblock, named after a lifetime of misadventures, he lived a rich vein of resources to draw on. What he knows about sports are the McLeans about winning, and losing, he said in an interview Monday, back in the comfortable confines of a family-holiday complex. By then he seemed more the woodsman than the craggy as the landscape he prospects and his hand-shake could square on his face a rock. "I've used my philosophy a little," he says. "I say if you get it, you keep on going, because if you get it, it's over."

McLean was plucked from the bush Thursday by helicopter pilot (he'll call it), and returned home carrying Diane Laker, about 230 lbs from the Yellowknife border. He was unaware that the RCMP, assisted by Red and the resources of friends and family, had mounted a massive search. McLean had been made

ing a trail Sunday, Aug. 16 while waiting to rendezvous with his geologist when he was held 21 in down a crevice. "I wasn't hurt and I didn't do anything but a little bit of sitting down a tree trunk."

He was disoriented, and when he climbed back he didn't know he was on a game trail on the opposite side of the creek from where he left. He spent days waiting for the wrong way before making a contact, contact. He figures he might have walked out by Friday along an ATV trail to a float plane dock on Harrison Lake. But he was more than doubtful for the rescue, and for the next weeks he had to be by himself. When the weather cleared Sunday, McLean found news, where Ernie, his wife of 54 years, waited at their Coquihalla home. "I'm so happy to have Ernie home," she says, "and very grateful for everyone's help in bringing Ernie back to the safe and sound."

This is hardly the first time Ernie's waited seriously for McLean to emerge from one trap or other. In his hockey days he was a full contact coach known to bang the occasional garbage pad on a hockey stick on the ice to let up the traps. Once, the story goes, he lifted the shaggy off a hapless referee. In 1979 he was forced to publicly apologize after a brawl between his Bruins and the Portland Winterhocks. Seven Bruins received conditional sentences for various reasons.

In the bush there have been misadventures too numerous to question, though some, he admits, have been embellished into legend. Having his foot run over by a bulldozer, how even—that was painfully true.

There were the plane crash in 1972, while doing a distance assignment as a coach in Saskatchewan as a pilot for Canada Pacific. "On the way back," he says, "I tried up and went down in the woods. I lost my eye and my jaw was all broken up." It took three days to reach help. "This time I wasn't hurt," he says. "That time I had a pair of shoes pulled under my jaw and a white T-shirt holding everything together."

McLean plans to be back working in the bush within days. There's just weeks left before weather makes the task impossible. As for the attraction of gold, it's not that dangerous to prospecting for hockey talent. He tells the story of reluctantly accepting a late recruitment to add a player, just turning 16, to the Canadian team he coached at the world junior championships in 1978.

McLean was Wayne Gretzky and he looked every bit of a warrior. "I said, well look it, I'll put you in places where you're not going to get yourself into any trouble." "I came out that place in front of the net. Gently emerged as the coach's leading scorer. And, yes, says McLean, that's what it felt like to find a race for stock of gold. ■

DAY IN THE SUN

## SHARP EYES CREDITED FOR PREHISTORIC PIND

Was a Prehistoric World 10, was in his science class, he says his teacher "always told us to be on your eyes nose, you know what you'll find?" "No when Walter, who was in a ground level spot at a Michigan golf course, started looking at a 9-kg tooth the object while need-watching, he knew he had something special. He went right a dentist's letter confirmed that the tooth belonged to a prehistoric mammoth, and could be up to 10,000 years old.

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**P. Smith**

**Dragonette's new CD mines the relationship between married bandmates Martina Sorbara and Dan Kurtz BY ELIO IANNACCI**

Pop history suggests that husband and wife singer-songwriter teams tend to have far more trouble than we hear from in available relationships. While they were waiting to see about such a union (here, Scotty and Cher as a Saturday Night Anecdote Pair), their vocal

the married Tim and Elaine Chagnon, have made extraordinary end-run calls that two die-cast cars, when they tug together you imagine their social life to be as much fun as a Chockle now. For every comedian (see Carrot and Johnny Cash, there are lost stars in the Tim Turner and Courtney Love and Kelly Cohen with enough assets to make maniacs swear off dating one another for good.

[illegible]

"I feel like Gabele was the pretty album," she continues, speaking in an endearingly high voice while locking eyes with Karris. "It was gilly and feminine and sweet. For *Focus To Follow*, I've cut my hair really short, deconstructed myself, stopped taking advice on how to write the queen-anxious universal pop song and now..." she brushes before finishing, "it sounds like a cowboy wearing both beret's and much more in."

The "Asian theater is talking about its dreamer Joe Studwell and guitarist Chris Huggins as well as Korta, yet it's easy to understand why the group is often mentioned for a duo: Watching Seaborn and Korta/violists in the band's leader and producer) fill with each other on stage, argue passionately at inter-views and then harmonize in the songs, the magnetism is powerful. Then there's the freshness of personality dream tracks such as *The Deliverer* (from *Galaxy*) and *Spaced Out* (from *Pluto To Thrift*). It all explains why *Dragonette* sticks out as a sea of slick mainstream pop groups.

"When I listen closely to my lyrics, you find out you're much smarter than I am," Martin says (the 37-year-old Kuma, whose known in the Canadian music scene as one of its founding members of acclaimed indie electronic band the New Deal, before forming Dragage with Seelbach, Narco produced her first album, *Maneater*, and co-produced Sarah's latest bestselling disc to date, *Day One*). "I may have a hew as her husband, but one of all the women I've worked with, I believe she has the potential to reach the same type of success in music as Sarah McLachlan—the fact is an issue, sometimes brutal issue of threes."

The pair weren't on totally honest ground when they first met, at a music festival more than seven years ago. Kauri was already in a long-term relationship with someone when he began an affair with Barbers—then an acoustic-guitar-working folklady who made what she now refers to as “trumpet music.” The result of their liaison was a messy breakup, a fistfight, and

**THE SONG IS A PLAYFUL WARNING TO GROUPIES: 'BELIEVE ME, I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF THOSE HUSSIES!' SHE JOKES**

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**DOWN TO NEW DEPTHS** Although popular with audiences, critics say lay-based films (like the planned *Batting* movie) are uninspired

After *Disneyland*, *Adventureland*, which was set in a theme park, Twisted actress Kristin Stewart says she's gotten over an unusual phobia. "I was always afraid of Disneyland because they're not an urban legend that they used to steal the kids and shave their heads," she said. "They'd take the kids out of the parks, and then the park would shut down in an emergency to try to find the bald child." I



Critics would rather see studios find their inspiration elsewhere. Many say board-game movies will be little more than two-hour commercials; some think the *Clash* concept represents the decay of the mainstream film industry. "It's not a good thing," says Steven Dornbusch, a film and television professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. "It's a



"At Jalebi in San Diego's Calaveras section about Gumbo's cooking show Top Chef said contestants had tackled exotic proteins like 'goony duck'—the species of large scabbie clam is spelled goosneck." "The Los Angeles Times on Aug. 10, apologizing for a culinary misadventure. Goosneck (pronounced 'goony duck' and pictured at left) is a saltwater clam native to the West Coast of the United States and Canada. "Goony duck" is not a known poultry variety.





ASKING an unwilling writer to prepare a query letter is like asking a gymnast to do a back handspring without any solid-line-orange mat.

## Tough love for would-be authors

Trying to sell a novel? Talk to the Query Shark, but be prepared to hear 'This stinks.'

BY JULIA BROWNELLE • You've finished writing your novel! Now you need a literary agent. Tiptoe an agent, you must write a query letter. There's just one snag: You don't know the format, or how to pitch the book or to introduce yourself. You're drowning in questions. But wait: Here's the Query Shark to the rescue.

Query Shark is the notoriously frank blogger of New York literary agent Janet Reid. Query Shark responds to queries to her blog, cracking critics and suggesting suggestions that make no sense. Query Shark critiques queries for dross, and then posts them at queryshark.blogspot.com for all to learn from. Names of writers are removed. Fiction queries only.

The idea came out of an event Reid staged for the New York chapter of the Women's National Book Association. Reid told *Maclean's*, "My idea was that writers would come along with agents and bring their queries. The agents would help them refine their queries the week, this was too much. People responded very positively to seeing queries and comments. A highlight was one of over my head, and Query Shark was born in April 2008."

"The shark doesn't like to be hurtful. 'Like everyone else, I would rather not say 'this stinks' to someone. Yet the truth is, much of what agents say in the query letter stage is simply not ready to be seen. But how does writer know that? They get rejection letters (laced with euphemisms 'not right for me') and plenty bad advice. They're expected to know what to do without any kind of actual coaching. It's like asking a gymnast to do a back handspring but not telling them how to do it. Injury ensues!"

In a review query to the shark, a writer says that his main character's impending death will "unbelievably torment a generation."

"Terminator is not a verb, not now, not in the future, not a 'C' shape the shark, and that's just a touch of the tone."

The shark instructs on every aspect of how to write this brief but crucial letter: "Do When I May Concern," the shark brooder "Agents LOVE THE 'Is When I May Concern' submission. It takes 10 seconds before the 'When I May Concern.' You know why? It's querying, not hatching a name. 'Dear Rejection Agent: What's Standing Between Me and Fame?' is better than 'TWING'."

When a writer pushes a novel about a cancer survivor who hooks up with a vampire, the shark is flummoxed. "There's a huge debate most often about whether vampires are dead (ya). What I mean, of course, is whether the vampire category is last year's hot topic. I'm not taking anything vampire unless it's a wildly new approach just cause the editors I talk to always need to hear something very new and fresh right now. To that end, you might focus less on the backstory and more on the reasons Kate survived cancer." Another writer queries, "Dear Query Shark, I have the show Lost. Perhaps here is something new, I despise Lost. I loved the first season. The shark roars: "No better hope that who were to trading this this is the last Lost is I don't." Further on, the shark slaps her blue

ink. "So basically, you're taking the premise of a TV show that everyone knows about except me, and writing a different ending. You might want to try for something a little less derivative. You've got a very broad-based on a desert island story. There's no plot. There's no conflict. There's no antagonist. That's a form rejection." Someone else has to go with a novel about dog snoring and puppy tails.

"Dear Query Shark, Children's book writer Emily Hunt lives through her whippers, especially a little bitch named Hugs."

"Write do 'delicious' and 'sundown' have to do with the story?" the shark asks. "Are those the two most important things we need to know about Emily? My guess is no. There fore, don't put them first in a query letter." When the writer adds, "The conclusion is relatively revealing," the shark begs, "Please please please don't tell me how I'm supposed to respond to a book. It just makes me say 'wanna bet?'" The shark concludes, "I'm like to read about dogs. You might have a good story in here. This query letter is like a springer spaniel with a writer's coat. It needs a boss with the dogpen to sprout it."

"I believe," says another writer approaching the shark, "you will have a heartless ferocity desire to reject my book." The shark does not. "Please don't ever include a sentence like this in a query letter. I know you want me to feel that way, but be real! don't be your heart on your sleeve. Just tell me about your book." ■



### FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... JOHN DIPIPPEN, PH

A century ago on the Pacific, the future prime minister, then 12 years old, had to tackle the task of a neighborhood member in a rivalry field—and the mission was of a family bond. Not really, of course, but that's the plot line of Redcliffe Books' children's novel, *The Mystery of the Woodland Whoddy*, the first in Redcliffe Publishing's new Leaders & Legals series of fictional adventures experienced by Canadian PHs in the days of their youth.

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# MACLEAN'S

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IN ORDER, Harper is still PM, the Liberals unveiled a bold plan involving ... a kayak, and Layton is still waiting for that electoral landslide

## The season in politics: a cheat sheet

**What Iggy, the New Old Whatever Democrats and a guy named Steve have been up to lately**



SCOTT  
FESCHUK

Admit it—you haven't paid close attention to federal politics over the summer. You've so liked our that I could make some ridiculous claims, like saying the Lib and party's holdenative of the season was sending an national director from Kingston to Ottawa as a canoe for some reason, and you might even believe it—what is ahead. Because he was actually in a kayak. Sorry, Conservative Party of Canada: you had a good run but there's no competing with that.

Autumn approaches. Let's get you up to date. First thing's first: Stephen Harper is still our Prime Minister. You can tell because the country's colour-coded Pardon Time! These Albertans are not to be.

For people are sure what Harper did for much of the summer. He nearly dropped out of sight, popping up only to remind Canadians that they positively, definitely do not want an election. I mean, how soon did he change a half-dozen times this summer? "Canada's not want an election," Harper says. "Let's face it: Canadians hardly ever want an election. An election means watching tedious debates, enduring long blue advertising, and harassing Jack Layton's belief that he's got a shot. That said, if you took the time to read beyond the headlines this summer (and you didn't, so stop pretending), you would have come away feeling much as though, "Canadians named Steve didn't want an election."

If he fear, Harper did emerge to once again travel to the Arctic. He seems to head north an awful lot, doesn't he? It makes you wonder if maybe he's making a gold claim

or leaving shies up there. Also, to be fair, Harper ended the spring by headwinding Michael Ignatieff with that "blue ribbon" paid-to-employment insurance, so the PM was obliged to spend two solid weeks this summer rubbing his hands together and chuckling sardonically. It's all there in the End Masterlist handbook.

All in all, it's not a bad time to be Stephen Harper. Here's a man who claimed we couldn't possibly have a recession (even as we were falling into one), issued the New Code of economic updates—intensely obsolete even before it was made public—and needed to be ejected into launching a stimulus program during the greatest financial crisis in 77 years. To be any more wrong on the economy, the Prime Minister would have had to convert the month's autumn to prosperity and hedge against the reborn of the hater system—a disastrous strategy, to be sure, save for the five chickens we could have got for John Reid.

But the opposition has been so ineffective and unconvincing that most Canadians approve of the direction in which the country is heading. This is remarkable when you realize that for much of the past year that direction has been straight down off a cliff.

The Liberals need a strong economic message to win an election. They don't appear to have one. They need a strategy to differentiate themselves from the Conservatives. They don't appear to have one. They don't have any reason to believe it would be wise to force an election this fall. Naturally, every one in the party has therefore determined to force an election this fall. These people are confident that Canadians will only behind Michael Ignatieff's pitch, which is to dare break down as follows:

• I am Michael Ignatieff!  
• [Extended pause, followed by a string to signify his confusion at the absence of applause and hand-clapping.]

Meanwhile, the New Democratic Party so encouraged its convention this summer that the only man anyone was interested in—a potential name change for the party—didn't even make it to the floor. This freed the national media to cover the convention from more traditional angles, such as ignoring it. Not even the unveiling in Jack Layton's keynote speech of his boldly antilegalist new thesis—Old thinking! Too. New thinking! Hooray!—could generate any rapturous enthusiasm.

Not that NDP loyalists seemed to notice. Writing for the Globe and Mail, a long-time party strategist claimed, "Our party is now at least as coherent, reasonable and thoughtful about the way forward" as the Liberals and the Conservatives. They again, so are those five John Reid chickens.

The New Old Whatever Democrats insist they want to form government. But when they fail to come even close to winning, they don't change. They never change. They think of this as a privilege but it's actually burden. Journal of Inhabiting data and policies that appeal to voters, they assume that Canadians will one day come to their senses and—staring at themselves upon the forehead as a lot of cornucopia monies—exclaim aloud, "How the New Democrats been this awesome! THE WHOLE TIME!" Why wasn't I informed?" Can the electoral landslide.

In other news, the Greens say that during the next campaign they will force the first time release a fully detailed campaign plan from God, they're adorable. ■

ON THE WEB To read Feschuk on the forum, visit his blog: [maclean.ca/feschuk](http://maclean.ca/feschuk)

## PHILIP RONALD MORDEN

1976-2009

A born tinkerer, he knew no fear. Inevitably he was smitten with the fastest thing on Lake Muskoka.

Philip Ronald Morden was born June 16, 1976, in Hamilton and grew up in the tight-knit suburb of Ancaster. He was the second child of Judy Morden, an office administrator at the school board, and her husband, Glen, who worked in construction. Philip was close to his older sister, Andrea, who "mothered him as her own," as Judy puts it. Family and friends describe him as charismatic, with boundless curiosity for the inner workings of everything, be they machines, economies or people. Judy recalls a trip to Walt Disney World where the state's famous roller coaster fired their young son's imagination. "Philip was more interested in how they built Space Mountain than the ride itself," she says. Philip and his dad were often bent over bicycles or cars. "I'd be ten take things apart and then bring them back together," says Glen. "Just so he had an understanding of it."

He was a serious athlete, always eager to push the limit in any sport he embraced, from snowboarding to hockey to waterboarding, says Josh Dene, a childhood friend. "He didn't really have any fear, crying the newest truck on a skateboard or snowboard," says Josh, now head golf pro at the nearby Glen Abbey Golf Club. "I was always nervous of that. He would push me definitely to do what he could do, to just take it over that edge." Philip did not know Josh's passion for golf, but when the two teens worked as "bushwhacker boys" at Ancaster's Hiram Power Golf Course, Philip added excitement to the game by overwatching the spread government on the gas-powered carts. "He was a bit mischievous," says Josh. "He made those golf carts go really fast."

Misadventure is one description. Mike Hough, a friend from Philip's days at the University of Western Ontario, says, "Let's see this term, a real s--- b--- d--- b---" he recalls Philip being frustrated that the only person with cable television in his dormitory was the super-savvy resident adviser. "Phil climbed outside the three-story building and scaled the ledge like Spider-Man and hooked up cable TV for himself," says Mike. Then other students wanted it, so "he was like scaling the wall again, hooking up cable, sending it from this RA. In no time the side of this building looked like Mexico City—there were wires everywhere," he says. Philip studied finance and economics at UWO, an avowed, maverick of his friends' pursuits for

mechanics. "He was a wonderful self-learner."

Childhood friend Peter Felice, who shared a Hamilton apartment with Philip after university, recalls his interest in tropical fish (and the women they attracted). Philip turned an old two-storey-long apartment into a complex ecosystem teeming with dozens of brilliant tropicals. "He was convinced that he could communicate with them. It was really an amazing fish tank, an example of how he sort of always took things to the extreme," says Peter.

No one was surprised when Philip moved to Newfoundland in 1999 to work for CBC Dominion Services, later transferring to Orillia. "He was never inclined to live in the city," says Mike. He says Philip turned down a chance to work in Toronto. "It would probably have been quite favourable from many perspectives but he would have died."

It was almost inevitable Philip would be smitten with the fastest thing on Lake Muskoka: water-skiing. Over the next seven years he became expert in building and racing them, at speeds topping 100 km/h. "I chased it," says his brother Glen Mike, who helped with the mechanics, preferred to stay ashore. "I don't have the speed disease," he says. Philip spent last winter building his fourth river, an 8TV River Rocket. It had the potential to be his fastest boat yet and he was excited at two U.S. races at the end of August. The steady wet summer kept him off the water and unable to fine-tune the craft. His girlfriend, nursing student Olana Polanco, had decided to go to a cousin's birthday. August 9 was a rare ideal day Philip donned his racing life jacket and set out as usual. The COP called "a high rate of speed." Members of the racing fraternity speculate he caught a rogue wave, perhaps engulfed by wakeboarders. The boat went airborne, flipped end over end and sank. Philip was pulled unconscious from the water, he died in hospital.

Words can't describe taking an 8TV to the limit, he-ave wrote on an Internet forum. "It takes a lot of thought to get the 'UP' button when you are going faster than you have ever gone before, and it takes even more thought about letting off the gas when you have had enough of the stupid situation you have put yourself into," he says. "But damn it is a rush." BY KEN MACGOWEN



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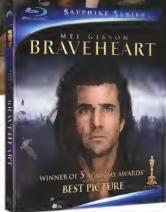
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